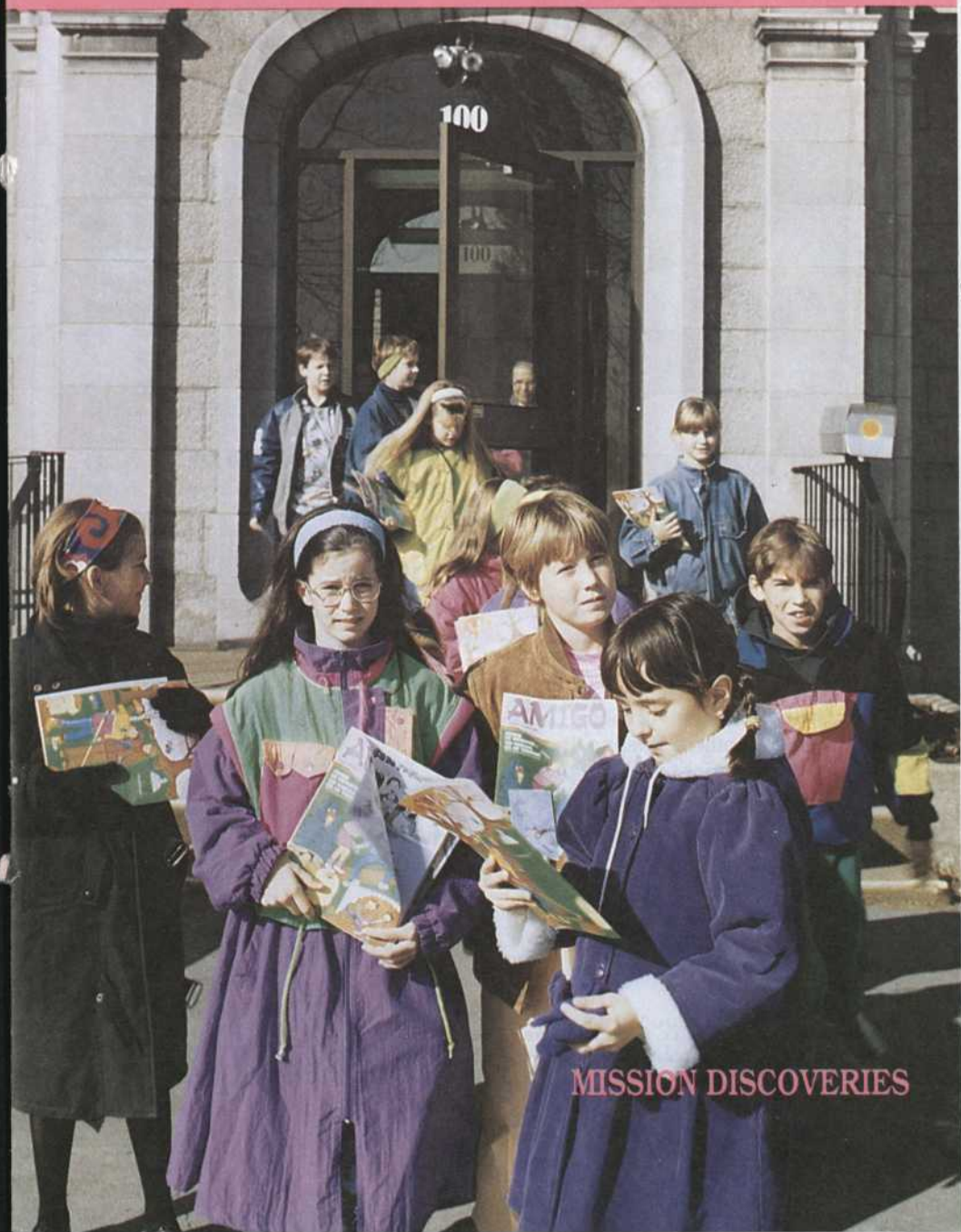


MIC MISSION NEWS

Series 19, No. 1
January - February 1992



MISSION DISCOVERIES

Discovery

*I slept
and I dreamed
that life was all joy.*

*I woke
and saw
that life was but service.*

*I served
and understood
that service was joy.*

Rabindranath Tagore

This issue reflects on vocation - God's call to love and serve others. Sharing life with His people, missionaries partake of the peace and joy of the Gospel as they proclaim: "The Kingdom of God has come!"

Illustration: Anita Julien, m.i.c.

Photo credits

Front: M.-P. Sanfaçon, m.i.c. (Canada) "Were not our hearts burning..." a missionary encounter at Pont-Viau.

Back: MIC Photo (Philippines) Sr. Judy Saludes, m.i.c., meets an Ifugao community leader.

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Treasures to discover and share

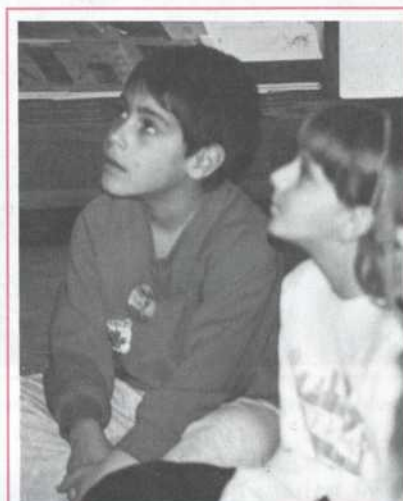
What fraternal sharing and links woven in the project, *Délia Tétreault: A woman witness to discover.* — A meeting of young people who are eager to understand all, and missionaries happy to inform and share their experiences on the mission!

From these encounters spring forth treasures of life and of joy. "The Kingdom of God is like a householder who brings out of his store-room things both new and old." (Mt 13, 52) Come, let us go to discover this treasure... at Pont-Viau.

Lighting up our world

It is a sunshiny day in June. Our house, sitting on the edge of Rivière-des-Prairies, awaits something. A swarm of 75 bicycles invades the front entrance. The pastoral animator and parents accompany 5th graders from St-Andrew Apostle School.

The animator of the missionary project, Sr. Georgette Richer, m.i.c., with an MIC team, welcomes the young visitors. Badges with "Light up your world" and "Tune up your heart" - themes of the *Service Mond'*

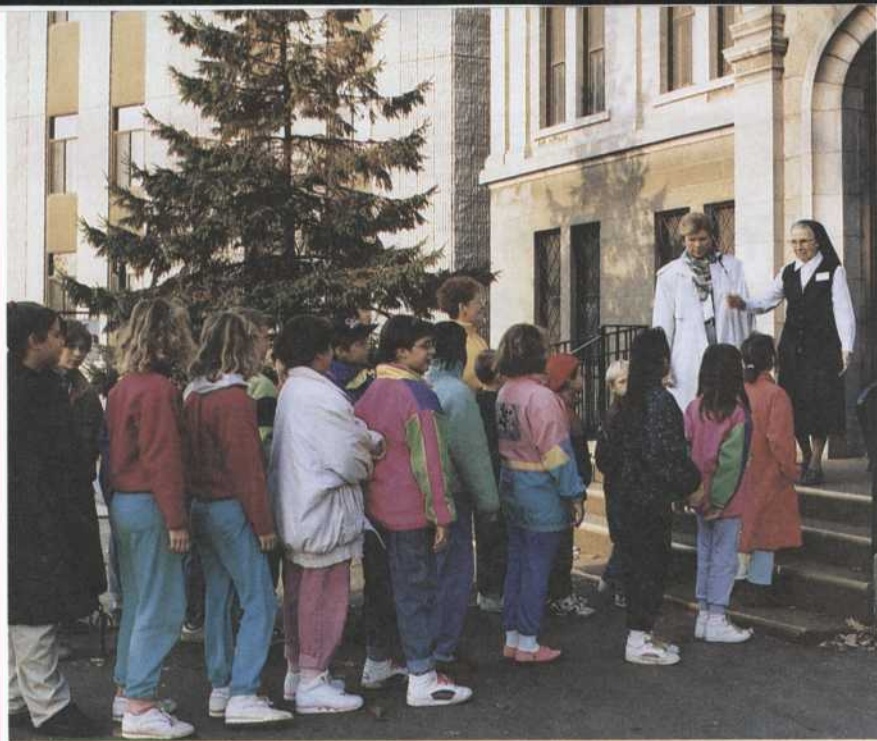


Apt listeners!

Ami are the topics of this encounter.

Another day, a bus drives into the front of the house with a group of 70 highschool girls from Marie-Rose School. Accompanied by Noëlla Parent, m.i.c., these young persons take this occasion to ask a thousand and one questions concerning faith today and missionary commitment.

In the course of the school year, hundreds of young students from different schools,



Sr. Georgette Richer welcomes teachers and students to Pont-Viau.



Sr. Gabrielle Saucier relates a mission experience to Girl Guides.

come to Pont-Viau, in turn, for the missionary encounters.

Tuning up our hearts

As so well emphasized by Mgr Hubert in the lines of action in the Church of Quebec: "Let there be encounter of the heritage which we carry, of the new secular cultures and of the person of Christ. Such is our mission!"

It is in view of missionary animation and of vocational awakening that an MIC committee has set up a project: *A woman witness to discover*. This project favors a vitalizing contact with Delia Tetreault, foundress of the Institute and with the women who continue today to pursue her great dream of announcing Jesus Christ. The activity equally arouses missionary commitment.

Moreover, missionaries who are retired feel revitalized at the contact with young people. Besides the apostolate of prayer, they carry the witnessing of a life enriched with apostolic experiences always dear to their hearts. Missionaries on leave in the country participate and take an important part.

In the course of 1991, when invitations were extended by the MIC team to the schools of the school Commission in Milles-Isles, Chomedey and the Ecores, 35 schools responded to the project.

Congratulations to the parishes that took care of transport

expenses for their students who were invited to the missionary rendez-vous in Pont-Viau!

Sharing our mission

At the end of each visit, missionary materials are handed out to the adults. Mission revues, photos and souvenirs are given to the younger children. As for us, missionaries, the words of the disciples of Emmaus are very meaningful: "Were not our hearts burning" while listening to our young guests... they have warmed our hearts!

Indeed, how can we not see the Spirit at work in the aspirations of today's youth!

Mission is in no way a one-way affair. Counselors in Christian education, pastoral agents, educators, — all are witnesses by their example and their zeal for the Kingdom.

As MICs, our dream is to be instruments of this mission. Our project is much less possession of a treasure than the sharing of its richness. A smile, the experience and reflections of elderly sisters, the enthusiasm, interest and spontaneity of the young — all these are values and challenges to share and encourage.

Together, we gather new treasures alongside the old to enrich life... making it always more abundant and full! *

Gabrielle Saucier, m.i.c.

Full of life!

A volunteer from Scotland, I am now working in Kuanhsi, Taiwan, in a center for the training of the mentally retarded.

The following reflects my experiences working here with an international group.

It was not until I was surrounded by a sea of Chinese faces, eating Chinese food, on a Chinese airline, on a flight from Hong Kong to Taipei, that fear finally hit me! All the warnings that I'd had from the people back home in Scotland were resounding in my brain... "Doesn't sound like a good idea to me"... "It's so far away"... "What if you get sick?"... "Everything is so different"... and so on!

Added to that were my own fears if anyone would meet me at the airport. Somehow at this moment my plan to go and work as a volunteer in a training center for the mentally handicapped in Taiwan did not seem like the good idea it was earlier. In short I was scared and wanted to go home and be among the familiarity and security of my family and friends.

But anyway, I was met at the airport and one year later I can now reflect on my experiences.

It all started nearly two years ago when I received a letter from Sr. Monette Ouellette, m.i.c., inviting me to come and help in the Center. Initially I found lots of reasons not to come but in the end my heart overruled my head and here I am now.

"So why?"... many people ask. Why come to Taiwan? Sometimes it surprises me. There's still a mystery about it, but I can say that in the midst of the affluent life I led working as an engineer for IBM in the United Kingdom, something was missing. Some voice inside was saying: "There's something else".

The emptiness I felt was calling for change, for a risk. Certainly now that empty feeling has gone, but I will not say life is easier. There is no eutopia to be found out here but I can say I live life more fully, life is richer, full of emotions both sad and joyful. But that is *life*, really living, touching depths you never knew existed in yourself.

Working and living with the handicapped brings us closer to our own humanity, our own vulnerability. Their simplicity, openness to giving and taking of love and totally genuine way of living teaches us so much about ourselves, makes us know our-

selves better. We realise their value in life to us all.

Yes, working as a volunteer for the handicapped has a very noble ring about it but I will admit to a sense of adventure about the whole experience. To live and experience such an alien culture, to learn Chinese, to travel in the Far East is exciting.

Our Center is also very international. In addition to myself, Srs. Monette Ouellette, m.i.c., and Françoise Larouche, m.i.c., we have three Carmelite Sisters from the Philippines, two volunteers from France and two Jesuits, one from Hungary and one from Belgium.

It's a real linguist's dream coming true! But as my French

is limited to *bonjour* and *com-bien* and the English of Jean-Marc, one of the French volunteers, is not much better, we talk to each other in Chinese!! I'll leave you to imagine how this amuses the local Chinese people.

I wish my experience could somehow reach out to other young people who maybe have this voice inside calling them to change. I want to say, "Pay attention to it, listen, pray and when an opportunity for change arises take the risk, take a chance.

Yes, there is another way, there are opportunities to live life at this greater depth of experience. Come and see, don't be afraid!" *

Kevin Gallagher



Kevin Gallagher (center), Sr. Monette Ouellette (left) and Sr. Françoise Larouche (right) with young residents at the Kuanhsi Centre.

Lord, make me your missionary

... one who has touched in depth the reality of who she is and looks up to her Creator and says: "Yes! thanks!"

... one who in her heart and in her life proclaims: "It is the Lord, hear Him. Follow Him!"

... one who comes when summoned and goes when sent, - willingly, gladly, faithfully.

... one whose heart knows no boundaries and embraces the whole world; one whose 'net', as it were, catches all kind of hearts, of varied races and colors.

... one whose heart thirsts and longs for you Jesus, and so desires to share you with those whose hearts also long for the ONE, who alone can bring life to its fullness.

January:

That the witness of those Christians who have suffered for Christ and the Church may help open the hearts of men and women to the love of Christ.

Missionary Inte 1992

During this situation of conflict in Haiti asking God to grant His people deep faith in the present challenge.



Sr. Aida Sabandal (right) enjoying a light moment with young Chinese workers.

*Lord, my God, make me your friend, your disciple.
Make me the missionary you want me to **be** and help
me **become**! I need you that I may see, I need you that
I may speak of the marvels and wonders of God
becoming man. **

Aida Sabandal, m.i.c.

January Intentions **1992**

**lict in Haiti, let us join in prayer
ple deep faith and hope in their**

February:

That the African Synod help revive
zeal for evangelization in the African
Church.

Companions on the journey

"The twelve were with him and also the women" Luke 8:1-3

In the Church, the ministry of women is nothing new. The Gospels and the Acts reveal how Jesus and the Apostles called certain women to play an important role in the spreading of the Good News.

I became the administrator of the church of Chantal in 1974. After so many years spent here, it is with deep regret that I leave this lovely parish. There are approximately 30-35 thousand inhabitants in the seven outstations of Chantal. There is so much to do to reach those who are far-away from the Lord and those who do not know Him as yet.

Ever since my arrival in Chantal, I have known a good number of MIC Sisters. Today, I give them thanks and appreciation for their magnificent work. They have been my 'right hand' in this vast pastoral field.

If Chantal has an excellent school, a dispensary with laboratory, a Legion of Mary, a liturgical committee, basic ecclesial communities, alphabetization and youth groups, it is thanks to the MIC Sisters. A pastoral family group has also been started and the people themselves request the continuation of this important project.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Community of the MICs and more especially to those Sisters who helped me in the pastoral work. I thank each one for their prayers, their fraternal support, understanding, their patience and their encouragement.

My assistants also greatly appreciated the services and devotion of the Sisters. With their spirit of love, of thanksgiving and of joy, I pray the Lord that the MICs may continue to bring the Good News to Chantal in spite of the present changes and difficulties.

May God multiply their vocations in Haiti!

Thank you and aurevoir! *

Joseph Vaillancourt, O.M.I.





Sr. Rosario Salazar rejoices with patients for the gift of health.

My missionary experience in San Juan de Miraflores, Pucallpa, is one of God's love for His people — a people living in misery, but a people full of joy and hope that one day life for them will be better. In this people, there is a thirst to know more about God and Mary.

In spite of much suffering and poverty, life goes on for the villagers. So, too, does the Christian community grow, with generous and committed lay leaders.

In a small dispensary, a big dose of God's love!

Before my arrival, sick people had been coming to the Sisters' house for treatment. A handy

Together... growing in faith and love

supply of medicine was available for fever, minor aches and pains. When I arrived in 1983, more sick people, some of whom lived outside Pucallpa, were seeking help. Needless to say that I felt very limited.

One month after my arrival, several crates of medical supplies were sent by Catholic Relief Services to our Bishop. How happy I was to receive four large crates! It was for me a gift from heaven! I was then able to set up a small dispensary.

Since 1984, the "*Collaboration Santé Internationale-Québec*" has also been a faithful benefactor, providing several containers of medicine and medical supplies every year.

I came across many diseases and cases of malnutrition. Mothers could not breastfeed their



Working on a common project with Christian community members.

babies — and because they had no money to buy milk, young ones were fed a mixture of cornstarch, sugar and water. Many cases of intestinal infections proved fatal and infant mortality rate was high.

Faced with such a situation, I always asked the Lord's help and that of Mary. They saved many lives for me! The mothers came back to thank me. I took the occasion to speak to them of the good God who loves them very much, of Mary who is always there to help them... it was they whom we should thank.

Catechists after the heart of Mother Délia

Along with the dispensary work, I had to take charge of the Christian Community in our village. Whenever the group had a

reunion or an activity, there were sick people arriving at the dispensary. I was often torn between staying with the group and attending to the sick. Happily, with the help of committed persons in the group, I was able to continue this pastoral work.

One catechist who helped me a lot was a young man named Wilson Chota. In charge of our youth groups, he prepared them for their first communion and confirmation. When Wilson completed his studies, he substituted without pay for absent teachers. He wanted to have experience while waiting for a position in Pucallpa.

One day, he told me that chances of obtaining such a post were very dim. He wanted to accept one outside Pucallpa which meant that he would discontinue

his work with the Christian Community.

Wilson's departure would mean cutting my "right arm" in this pastoral service. I confided my problem to our Foundress, Délia Tétreault. If she wanted this work to continue in our mission, she had to do something for Wilson. On the ninth day of my novena, Wilson brought the good news that he had obtained a position.

With tears of joy in my eyes, I congratulated Wilson. I had been praying for him and he was bringing me the answer to my

prayers! Together, we thanked God for His loving providence.

As I look back at my life in Pucallpa, I see God's hand and that of Mary, working in the people. How many a time have we sung our praises and thanks!

More than ever, I realize that my vocation finds meaning in these words of our Mother Foundress: "God has given us everything, even His own Son; what better way to thank Him in return than by giving Him children who will also sing His goodness throughout the ages!" *

Rosario Salazar, m.i.c.

PHILIPPINES

Inayao's legacy

On an afternoon in March 1991, a friend informed us that Inayao was dead and that her body lay at her *abong* or house with some neighbors looking after her remains. After many years of suffering God finally called her to rest.

During the days of her wake, the Sisters offered prayers and helped her neighbors to look after the burial services.

Who was Inayao? How did the Sisters come to know her? Ina-

yao was an Ifugao woman. She was married and had a son. Hardships in life led the small family to wander until it reached Benguet Province and came to settle in Baguio City.

Inayao first presented herself to the Sisters a few years ago. She came to ask for help, offering to work for a day's pay. From then on she was a regular visitor. Her constant coming allowed the Sisters to know her quite well.

When I came as a postulant in 1988, Inayao was already coming regularly to do cleaning, pulling weeds and grasses at the noviciate backyard. She was a hard-working woman. She didn't care much about herself. Her main concern was to earn her daily living. For her, no work meant no meal for the day.

She came to work barefooted, wearing the same dress and the same head band. She also brought with her the same smile of simplicity and innocence.

Each time she knocked at the door, our noviciate community responded by serving her a meal and sharing with her, things that she needed.

When Inayao's sight began to fail, she used a walking stick and continued her visits. The Sisters encouraged and helped her to receive medical treatment which for a time improved her condition. However, old age and constant hard work during her



Inayao's smile invited others to give and serve.

younger years brought other pains and ailments.

Being too weak to work, she was advised to stay at home. We, Sisters, then took it on ourselves to visit her often to bring food, to bathe her, wash her clothes and clean her house. Before long, we felt an attachment and a special concern for her.

Inayao is gone. She was poor. She was a nobody. Her husband and son neglected to care for her, to give her love and affection. She was poor until the last moment. But God loved her and it is my hope that she would share in the Kingdom where there is no more suffering nor pain.

She was a 'pagan' but eventually became a believer. When asked about prayer, she claimed that she knew how to pray and that she was ready to entrust everything into God's hands.

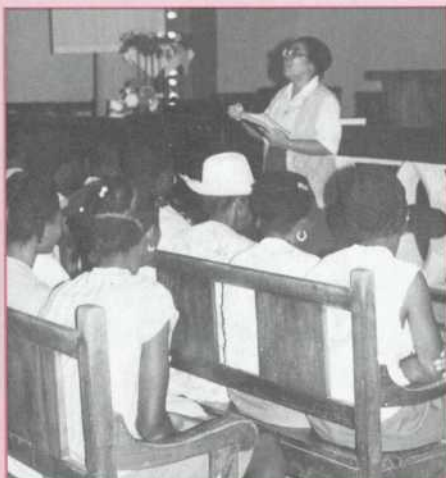
For me, Inayao was an actual 'visual aid' vis-a-vis my missionary vocation. Friendship with her brought profound lessons about life, leading me to deeper self awareness and reflection.

Most of all, memories of Inayao are vivid reminders wherever I go - that God's love is for all. And that having Christ at the center of one's life makes a difference! Having experienced it, I feel called to make this love more tangible and concrete in my own life. *

Judy Saludes, m.i.c.



Malawi



Haiti

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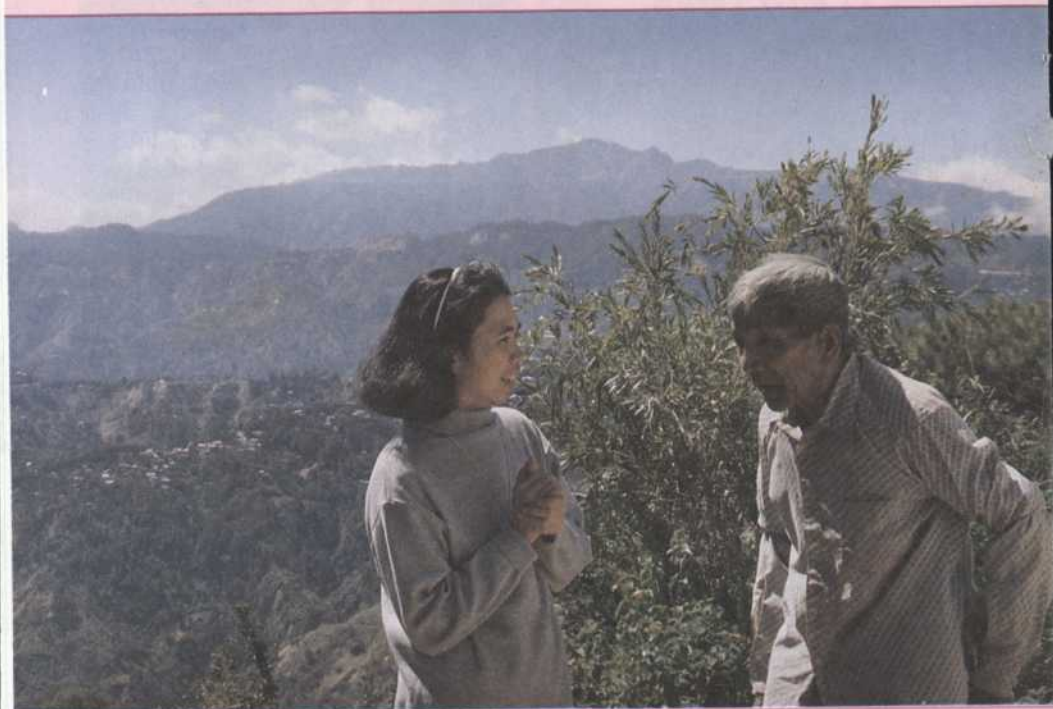
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"And how can they believe in Him, if the message is not proclaimed?" Rom 10,14.

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